

## **REMARKS**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)***

The Examiner did not consider two of the references cited in the IDS because they are in a non-English language, and no concise statement of relevance was provided. In response, Applicant resubmits these references in a new IDS, along with the European Search Report, which satisfies the concise statement of relevance.

### ***Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112***

Claims 2-4 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. It is the Examiner's position that the "claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention." In particular, the Examiner asserts that claim 2's recitation of "the program-controlled unit inputs the behavior of the diagnostic data output driver of the power chip which outputs the diagnostic data *to the power chip* by transmitting corresponding control data to the power chip" (emphasis added) is inconsistent with the disclosure on page 3, paragraph 11 (i.e., paragraph 14 in the published application).

The paragraph in the application to which the Examiner refers relates to the conventional device rather than the inventive device. The relevant paragraph to which the Examiner should have referred is paragraph 98 of the published application. Nevertheless, claim 2 needed to be amended to be consistent with paragraph 98. Applicant believes the amendments to claim 2 overcome this rejection.

Claims 1-14 are also rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. It is the Examiner's position that the multiple uses of the term "and/or" throughout claim 1 results in the scope of the claims not being properly defined. The Examiner noted that independent claim 15, which is similar to the subject matter of claim 1, uses the term "at least one of," and for examination

purposes the Examiner has assumed that this is what was meant in claim 1. Applicant has therefore amended claim 1 to use language similar to that of independent claim 15. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

***Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102 and 103***

Claims 1 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Clemente (U.S. Patent No. 4,786,826). Claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Clengson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,811,997; hereinafter "Clengson"). Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Clengson, and further in view of Risinger (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,070). Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Boggs et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,458; hereinafter "Boggs"). Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Guerra (EP Patent Appln. Publ. No. 418,665 A1).

Independent claims 1 and 15 each recite that "the program-controlled unit, by transmitting corresponding control data to the power chip, can do at least one of the following: ..." Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1 and 15 to no longer include the feature used to reject this limitation, that is, that the program-controlled unit, by transmitting corresponding control data to the power chip can configure protective mechanisms present in the power chip. Amended independent claims 1 and 15, along with their independent claims, as therefore believed to be allowable over the applied prior art.

Further, dependent claims 7, 8, 11, 12, and 14 were not been rejected based on prior art and thus are believed to be allowable. Applicant has therefore amended each of these claims to be in independent form.

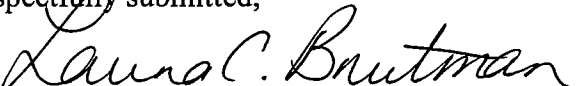
Applicant has also added new claims 16-18. New claim 16 is based on amended claim 15, but is broader in that it does not include the means-plus-function language of claim 15. New claim 17 is newly drafted, and support for this claim can be found in paragraphs 77 and 78 of the

published application. New claim 18 is based on new claim 17, except that the microsecond bus controller is written in means-plus-function format.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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